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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
OPNAVINST 4730.7D  
OP-212  
18 August 1988

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 4730.7D

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MATERIAL INSPECTION OF SUBMARINES BY THE BOARD OF  
INSPECTION AND SURVEY

Ref: (a) Title 10, U. S. Code, Article 7304  
(b) Article 0321, U. S. Navy Regulations, 1973

1. Purpose. To issue the policy of the Chief of Naval Operations concerning material inspection of submarines by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV).

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 4730.7C.

3. Background. Reference (a) provides the Secretary of the Navy with authority to establish boards of naval officers to examine vessels of the Navy. It further states that "Each vessel shall be examined by a board at least once every three years, if practicable." Reference (b) reiterates that material inspection of all naval ships by the President, Board of Inspection and Survey is required once every three years, when practicable.

4. Discussion. In the past, the concept of submarine employment required that the interval between shipyard overhauls be approximately five to six years. The operating tempo of these ships makes tight operational scheduling mandatory in order to meet the requirements of conducting strategic deterrent patrols and extended deployments and would be adversely affected by conducting material inspection at three-year intervals as prescribed by references (a) and (b). The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has determined that it is not practicable to adhere to the three-year inspection cycle for all submarines. Accordingly, it is the policy of the CNO that all SSBNs and those SSNs under the submarine engineered operating cycle (SEOC), and all SSNs under the extended submarine engineered operating cycle (ESEOC), be given a post-overhaul and a post depot modernization period (DMP) underway inspection and an underway material inspection at the midpoint between overhauls and DMPs, normally just prior to an extended refit period (ERP) or selected restricted availability (SRA), as appropriate. (R)

5. Policy. It is CNO policy that:

a. A post overhaul underway INSURV inspection will be conducted on each submarine to determine fitness for service. (R)

18 August 1988

The inspection of SSBNs will normally be conducted during a separate underway trial, to be completed approximately two weeks before overhaul completion in order to provide adequate time in which to correct any deficiencies found. Final resolution of correction of deficiencies is the responsibility of the fleet commander in chief. For SSNs, the post-overhaul or post-DMP inspection will be scheduled within three months following overhaul or DMP completion, to ensure that it is conducted within the guarantee period.

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b. For SSBNs, a mid-cycle material inspection will be conducted no later than the six-year point following overhaul completion. This inspection will normally be scheduled just prior to an ERP.

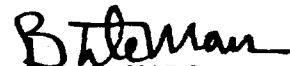
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c. For each SSN on the SEOC or ESEOC for which the approved overhaul or DMP interval exceeds five years, a mid-cycle material inspection will be conducted no later than the four and one-half year point following overhaul or DMP completion. This inspection will normally be scheduled just prior to an SRA.

d. All other submarines will be inspected at the completion of overhaul and at three-year intervals until the next overhaul.

e. Material inspections of submarines by the Board of Inspection and Survey will not normally be conducted within six months of the beginning of a shipyard overhaul.



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